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Denali Training Fund Quarterly Progress Report

Funds for this project are provided by the USDOL and the Denali Commission and managed, in partnership, by the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

Name of Organization:	University of Alaska
Name of Project:	Allied Health Training Phase IIIB
Reporting Period:	April 1, 2008 – June 30, 2008 4 th Quarter FINAL CLOSEOUT
Contact Person:	Jan Harris
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Expenditures to date:	See fiscal report
Certification: I certify that the information in this report is current, correct and true and in accordance with the terms and conditions of the agreement.	
Signed by:	<u><i>Jan Harris</i></u> Dated <u>7/15/08</u>
Jan Harris, Associate Dean, College of Health & Social Welfare / Project PI	

PROJECT SCOPE / OVERVIEW OF THIS REPORT

The University of Alaska Rural Allied Health Training Project provides training in a state-wide collaboration involving the three major academic units of the University. This report covers the 4th quarter and closeout of phase IIIB as the project transitioned to phase IV funding. Final activities for these project components are addressed in this report:

Community Health Aide Program

Medical Office / Health Care Reimbursement

Pharmacy Careers

Radiologic Careers

Medical Laboratory Careers

Dental Assisting

UAA Health Sciences Curriculum Development

Direct Services Careers (PCA/CNA)

Trainee Success Projects

Project Facilitation

Community Health Aide Program

The Community Health Aide Program (CHAP) prepares Community Health Aides and Practitioners to provide comprehensive health care in Alaskan village communities.

Final Activities

The Academic Liaison monitors the university credit awarded for CHAP Basic training courses (CHP 131, 132, 133, 134 for 8 credits each; each credit = 40 hours) taught at the four tribal health organizations CHAP Training Centers (ANTHC, NSHC, SEARHC and YKHC). During the period April 1 – June 30, 2008 the following numbers of CHA's completed the following sessions and received a salary increase from their regional health corporation: Session I (CHP 131) – 18 CHA trainees, 5,760 hours; Session II (CHP 132) – 18 CHA trainees, 5,760 hours; Session III (CHP 133) – 18 CHA trainees, 5,760 hours; Session IV (CHP 134) – 12 CHA trainees, 3,840 hours.

Graduation: University of Alaska Fairbanks spring graduation numbers in Community Health (degree title for the CHA/P program students). Certificate = 25. Associate of Applied Science degree = 5. Students attended ceremonies at rural campuses throughout the state.

CHP 293 Anatomy, Function and Medical Language course (3 credits by distance delivery) was completed by 17 students. All students passed (grades ranged from A to C+). Each individual also received student advising for their AAS degree and information about the new Physician Assistant education track at UA starting Fall '09.

The new course CHP 293 Wellness: Promoting Health and Preventing Chronic Disease (2 credits) was delivered to 12 students March 31-April 4th. It included 2 teleconferences with excellent post course health education community projects completed by the students.

Path to Understanding Cancer May 12 – 16th (1 credit) was completed by 9 students. The course also included a follow-up teleconference, and each student completed a cancer education project in their community.

CHAP Forum April 21-25 at Coast International Hotel, Anchorage took place. 64 CHAs/CHPs attended the week long presentations for Continuing Medical Education. 22 CHPs received UAF CHP 250 credit for their AAS degree (only 22 eligible for CHP 250 credit since the degree only allows up to 3 CHP 250 credits). Each participant also received student advising for their AAS degree and information about the new Physician Assistant education track at UA starting Fall '09.

12 individuals attended a discussion session on the BA degree in Rural Development with Grace Kirk, current student, who is a CHP with her AAS degree and past Maniilaq CHAP Director.

Post production CD of CHAP Forum (agenda, all presentations, awards and photos) was developed in cooperation with Torie Heart, ANTHC CHAP Director. Approximately 100 copies were made and distributed to attendees, CHAP Training Centers and Field Instructors across the state.

Pre-Session course syllabus revision was completed, along with a new Student Workbook and new Instructor Manual which includes a course schedule and student skills list. The new Pre-Session was taught at ANTHC May 27-30 with 5 students and a very positive outcome. Materials

distributed to CHAP programs in early June. Plan: to have the Pre-Session taught and materials used by several other tribal health organizations this summer and finalize all course materials by September.

The faculty Liaison chaired the CHAP Academic Review Committee (ARC) meeting May 12th-14th and reported to the Association of Alaska CHAP Directors Feb 15th on both UAF and ARC issues which included program curriculum, Pre-Session course materials and training schedule and evaluation tools for Patient Encounters and standards.

Participant Numbers

131 CHAs and CHPs attended a Basic Training session or an advanced course.

Medical Office / Health Care Reimbursement

The Medical Office program prepares workers to provide billing and coding services in medical offices. Students can earn a 30 credit HCR certificate (including 10 health courses) or a 38 credit Medical Assisting certificate.

Final Activities

- Recruitment for a full-time faculty member continues.
- Adjunct faculty taught 6 classes with 68 enrollees (45 individuals) across the state using blended synchronous and asynchronous online delivery.
- Three courses were re-developed for entirely asynchronous delivery.
- HLTH 193 Medical Office Technology was delivered to 7 trainees.
- Four adjunct faculty were trained and mentored on distance-learning modalities.
- Numbers of degree-seeking trainees continue to rise.
- An Administrative Procedures course was redeveloped to better meet AAMA accreditation requirements using a distance delivery format.
- The medical coding course was redeveloped to reflect updates to code sets.
- New advertising materials were developed to reflect fall semester offerings.
- Three Occupational Endorsements were submitted for approval: Medical Coding, Medical Billing, and Medical Office Reception.
- Began planning to offer Medical/Dental Reception Certificate in rural AK.
- Held UAF Allied Health meetings to clarify and differentiate the roles and responsibilities of rural vs. on-campus Allied Health coordinators.

Participant Numbers

Participants this reporting period - 45 trainees (68 enrollments)

Pharmacy Careers

Pharmacy Technology is currently a 16 credit program (five 3 credit courses and one 1 credit course) that leads to an occupational endorsement and prepares trainees for employment as pharmacy technicians. These courses were pilot tested, reviewed and delivery methods were refined with Denali funding. In 2008 UAA assured program continuation by securing General Funds for the faculty position.

Final Activities

Recruitment continued for the faculty position without success. Fortunately, three adjunct faculty were able to teach the courses during this period.

Since there is also a major shortage of pharmacists in the state, we expanded the Pharmacy Tech Advisory Committee to join with College of Health and Social Welfare. The two colleges joined to facilitate the development of pre-pharmacy education and partnerships with Schools of Pharmacy outside of Alaska. Its first meeting was held this quarter.

The Alaska Pharmacy Association held their annual conference during this quarter with a specialized breakout day for Pharmacy Technicians. We worked closely with them to prepare and make a presentation to working pharmacy technicians who might be interested in this program. The Association also created a scholarship for this program and its first award was made to a student taking her third course. The scholarship will be awarded once a year and shows commitment from the health industry partners.

Participant Numbers

Participants this quarter - 23.

Radiologic Careers

The Limited Radiography program is a four-course, on-line; distance-delivered certificate program that prepares workers in health care settings to take basic x-rays and also provides an opportunity for individuals to explore the field. It is presently deployed in several areas of the state. The program leads to an occupational endorsement.

Radiography is a developing career area and specialties evolve with changes in technology. It has been especially difficult for rural facilities to recruit workers in this field. (UAA currently offers three radiographic programs: limited radiography, radiographic technology, and mammography.)

Final Activities

From the 4 courses offered in Spring semester, there were 6 students who completed their classes. The sixth cohort made up of 4 students started the RADT 101 course, though two did not complete. Their home communities are from around the state - southeast, YK Delta and the interior. Retention from the first to second course has been a challenge. The efforts to support the Fall semester fifth cohort (Eastern Aleutians Tribes) were successful and all three continued with the RADT 102 course.

Participant Numbers

Participants this reporting period - 6

Medical Laboratory Careers

The Medical Laboratory Programs prepare trainees for jobs as Phlebotomists and Clinical Assistants. The Phlebotomy program is 9 credits which apply to the 24 credit Clinical Assisting program. Trainees earn an occupational endorsement and are prepared for national certifying exams. The project is to mentor additional trainees to complete the phlebotomy and clinical assistant programs, develop additional courses for the future distance MLT AAS program, expand admissions to more locations in the state, identify new industry partners for lab programs, and implement an orientation program for clinical mentors.

Final Activities

An additional new faculty position for the distance delivered AAS was added this year with University General Funds to demonstrate UAA's commitment to rural students in Med Lab Tech. The full faculty search was unsuccessful this quarter. It is very difficult to recruit qualified faculty in this discipline to Alaska.

The spring semester Phlebotomy and Clinical Assisting programs offered six classes. 23 (duplicated) students are taking those classes. As six month long courses, students completed on June 30. The unduplicated count of students from all over the state is 17. Examples are: Unalaska, Nome, Tooksook Bay, Aniak, Kodiak, Petersburg. The addition of this group of students was a direct result of the Lab Managers/Industry meeting held by the program in late August.

The semester for these Clinical Assisting and Phlebotomy programs run 6 months rather than the traditional 15 weeks. The Med Lab Tech program holds a pinning ceremony each semester. One Phlebotomy completer from Aniak was recognized in the May ceremony since they completed their course of study in the previous semester ending in December.

Participant Numbers

Participants this reporting period - 17

Dental Assisting

The Dental Assisting program prepares trainees for work as chair side dental assistants and to sit for the Dental Assisting National Board (DANB).

Final Activities

The dental assisting program offered another pilot course Spring semester - Essentials of Dentistry. After several marketing efforts to the dental community, only two students signed up. One is employed by a private dental office. Both students completed the class. They live in Selawik and Sterling. Several efforts to recruit a person to connect with rural dental provider system and determine why enrollments are so low were unsuccessful.

Participant Numbers

Participants this period - 2

UAA Health Sciences

This initiative is to develop advanced program tracks for allied health workers who already hold licensure or certification in a discipline. They will be prepared to assume supervisory and other higher level positions in their health organizations. These are advanced positions not typically filled by rural residents.

Final Activities

The University catalog and curriculum changes for the BSHS are progressing. A formal meeting occurred with the Provost's Office to clarify the extent of approval required for the proposed changes. With this clarified direction, all the preparatory work will be completed next quarter and taken through the necessary steps for approval. Additionally this quarter, funding was allocated by the Legislature for several faculty positions in the Dept of Health Sciences that will make it possible to carry out this program expansion.

Direct Services Careers (PCA/CNA)

This project prepares trainees for jobs as personal care attendants (PCA) and certified nursing assistants (CNA). The PCAs are home-based workers. A PCA Bridge course allows trainees to advance from the PCA to CNA. PCA programs fall under the purview of the State in its office for senior services. The Alaska State Board of Nursing oversees CNA program requirements and scope of practice.

Final Activities

- Worked closely with the State Board of Nursing to secure approval of a new clinical site located in Haines Alaska. This required submitting supportive documentation on how objectives would be met in accordance with State Statutes and Regulations for the Certified Nurse Aide requirements.
- Admitted a total of five (5) local Haines students to participate in this pilot program.
- Conducted an onsite mid-term visit to Haines at which time, the students were given a written comprehensive exam, lab skills evaluation, and detailed instructions to prepare for the State Certification Exam.

Participant Numbers

Participants this reporting period - 13

Trainee Success Projects

The Trainee Success Project is a suite of support services to enable trainees in allied health to be successful. There are coordinators at each of the three main campuses who are responsible for providing personalized support, preliminary advising, coaching and supplemental instruction, and assistance with distance education technologies, all to enhance the academic success of rural trainees. The Trainee Success Project is not an academic program but rather a support system for trainees in the various rural Allied Health Programs.

Final Activities

This period coincides with the second half of a semester and the coordinators were busy planning for upcoming events and supporting enrolled students as reflected in the following chart:

	UAS	UAA	UAF
Number Trainees (unduplicated)	12	26	19
Total Contacts/ Assists:	24	117	21
<i>Personalized Support</i>	24	60	29
<i>Advising & Registration</i>	0	45	18
<i>Technical Support</i>	5	9	1
<i>System Barriers</i>	5	35	0
<i>Group Communications</i>	0	28	1
Total Marketing Contacts	0	0	0

Project Facilitation

This area of the grant provides for the overall coordination of the various initiatives, project development, troubleshooting and coordination across departments, colleges and MAU's, as well as reporting.

Final Activities

The PI and Project Manager coordinated frequently with the liaisons from UA's three MAUs to track the progress of their programs and anticipate future needs.

The project manager continued troubleshooting the transition from grant administration by the Alaska Dept of Labor to the Denali Commission and from Karen Perdue at UA Statewide to Jan Harris at UAA as the lead agency.

The project manager and fiscal manager attended training related to Denali Commission's new grants management system.

PCA/CNA Workgroup. Planned and on May 6, 2008, convened a meeting of UA faculty and other providers of CNA training to review PCA and CNA programs and explore the need for expanded efforts.

Medical Office / HCR Workgroup. Planned and on May 9, 2008 convened a meeting of HCR and Medical Office faculty to coordinate programs and outline descriptions of typical pathways open to students in the area of Medical Office and Health Care Records.

UA Allied Health Alliance engaged in discussions related to further development of the Rural Allied Health Training Project, including possible activities to promote retention of allied health workers.

PHOTOS



Community Health Aide Forum, 4.25.08



Teams Competing in Anatomy & Physiology contest at 4.25.08 CHAP Forum

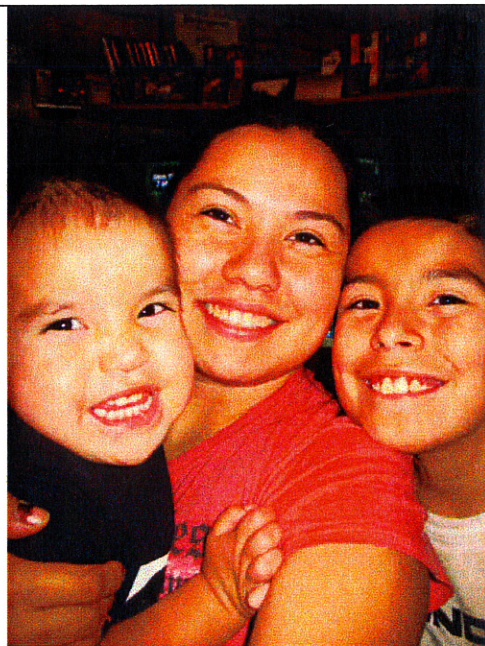
Students in Allied Heath Reimbursement Program



I'm Tonia Nelson and I'm a wife and Mom and am currently employed by YKHC in Bethel, Alaska. My husband and I have recently moved to Anchorage and I'm taking this course as well others for the Health Reimbursement Certificate, in hopes of increasing my marketability in the health field. I grew up in the bush and our family hopes to spend more time there in the future, but for now Anchorage is home. I have an AA degree in general ed and am also a massage therapist since 1991. I'm looking forward to this class and hope it will give me an edge in the workplace, more confidence and computer skills in the medical office.



Hi My name is Tamara Thomas (left), I grew up and lived in Fort Yukon Alaska all my life. For the past two years I've been working at the Yukon Flats Health Center as a Medical/Dental Billing Clerk. Also I've taken other health classes through Elluminate Live these last three semesters. I'm taking this course as a part of the Healthcare Reimbursement Certificate, in which I recently enrolled in.



I'm Monica Thomas I've lived in Fort Yukon all my life. I have two boy's Justice & River. I've worked at the Yukon Flats Health Center for 6 1/2 years. I was first the receptionist than transferred to Medical/Dental Billing I am now the Billing Manager. I've just enrolled in the Health Care Reimbursement Certificate program.



My name is Kay Andrews. I live in the village of Aleknagik located just above Dillingham in the Bristol Bay region. I am married with 10 children. They keep me very busy! I will soon become a grandmother in June as well! We all love the outdoors and are commercial fishers in Ekuk, Alaska, during the season of course.

I am unemployed since my layoff on December 31, 2007. My experience in office occupations over the past 16 years ranges from reception to research. I have a legal background derived from employment at the Legislative Information Office, Alaska Legal Services Corporation, Alaska Court System, Alaska Public Defender's Agency, and most recently as a Paralegal. My layoff opened the doors for new opportunity to advance my skills and knowledge. I chose the Healthcare Reimbursement Certificate Program and hope to further that education with an ending result in obtaining a degree in Public Administration and become professionally employed permanently.